WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus for managing maintenance agreement information corresponding to an identifier for specifying an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a memory for storing a variety of charge amounts per paper sheet printed and output by the image forming apparatus in accordance with whether the maintenance agreement information includes maintenance information by a serviceman of the image forming apparatus; and

a calculation section for calculating a payable amount on the basis of the charge amount stored in said memory.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory stores a first charge amount per printed and output paper sheet including maintenance by the serviceman and a second charge amount without the maintenance, the first charge amount being added with a maintenance cost, unlike the second charge amount.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus and said information processing apparatus are capable of two-way communication through a first network.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a communication section for generating and transmitting window information for changing the

maintenance agreement information stored in said memory.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said communication section receives use situation information of the image forming apparatus and notifies a user of agreement information corresponding to the received use situation information.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said apparatus further comprises a recognition section for recognizing the total number of printed paper sheets of the image forming apparatus in a predetermined period, and

said calculation section calculates the payable amount in accordance with the total number of printed paper sheets recognized by said recognition section and the maintenance agreement information corresponding to the image forming apparatus.

7. An information processing method of calculating a charge for use of an image forming apparatus by a user, comprising the steps of:

determining contents of a maintenance agreement of each image forming apparatus, which is stored in a memory; and

calculating a payable amount on the basis of a unit price corresponding to the contents of the maintenance agreement and a charge amount stored in the memory.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the memory

stores a first charge amount per printed and output paper sheet including maintenance by a serviceman and a second charge amount without the maintenance, the first charge amount being added with a maintenance cost, unlike the second charge amount.

9. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the communication step of generating and transmitting window information for changing maintenance agreement information stored in the memory.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the communication step comprises receiving use situation information of the image forming apparatus and notifying the user of agreement information corresponding to the received use situation information.

11. The method according to claim 7, wherein

said method further comprises the count step of counting the total number of printed paper sheets of the image forming apparatus in a predetermined period, and

the calculation step comprises calculating the payable amount in accordance with the total number of printed paper sheets counted in the count step and the maintenance agreement information corresponding to the image forming apparatus.

12. A computer program to be executed by a computer, comprising:

a program code for determining contents of a

maintenance agreement of each image forming apparatus, which is stored in a memory; and

a program code for calculating a payable amount on the basis of a unit price corresponding to the contents of the maintenance agreement and a charge amount stored in the memory.

13. The program according to claim 12, wherein the memory stores a first charge amount per printed and output paper sheet including maintenance by a serviceman and a second charge amount without the maintenance, the first charge amount being added with a maintenance cost, unlike the second charge amount.

14. The program according to claim 12, further comprising a program code for generating and transmitting window information for changing maintenance agreement information stored in the memory.

15. The program according to claim 12, wherein the program code for transmission comprises receiving use situation information of the image forming apparatus and notifying the user of agreement information corresponding to the received use situation information.

16. The program according to claim 12, wherein

said program further comprises a program code for counting the total number of printed paper sheets of the image forming apparatus in a predetermined period, and

the program code for calculation comprises

calculating the payable amount in accordance with the total number of printed paper sheets counted by the program code for counting and the maintenance agreement information corresponding to the image forming apparatus.

17. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a computer program to be executed by a computer, said program comprising:

a program code for determining contents of a maintenance agreement of each image forming apparatus, which is stored in a memory; and

a program code for calculating a payable amount on the basis of a unit price corresponding to the contents of the maintenance agreement and a charge amount stored in the memory.

18. The medium according to claim 17, wherein the memory stores a first charge amount per printed and output paper sheet including maintenance by a serviceman and a second charge amount without the maintenance, the first charge amount being added with a maintenance cost, unlike the second charge amount.

19. The medium according to claim 17, wherein the computer program further comprises a program code for generating and transmitting window information for changing maintenance agreement information stored in the memory.

20. The medium according to claim 17, wherein the program

code for transmission comprises receiving use situation information of the image forming apparatus and notifying the user of agreement information corresponding to the received use situation information.

21. The medium according to claim 17, wherein

the computer program further comprises a program code for counting the total number of printed paper sheets of the image forming apparatus in a predetermined period, and

the program code for calculation comprises calculating the payable amount in accordance with the total number of printed paper sheets counted by the program code for counting and the maintenance agreement information corresponding to the image forming apparatus.

22. The method according to claim 7 further comprising a step of two-way communication through the image forming apparatus and the first network.

23. The program according to claim 12, further comprising a program code for two-way communication through the image forming apparatus and the first network.

24. The medium according to claim 17, further comprising a program code for two-way communication through the image forming apparatus and the first network.

25. An information processing apparatus for executing processing related to an expendable used in an image forming apparatus, comprising:

a window information generation section for

generating window information for designating a time of delivery of a new expendable and collection of a remaining component of a used expendable; and

a transmission section for transmitting the window information generated by said window information generation section to the image forming apparatus.

26. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein

said apparatus further comprises a use amount acquisition section for acquiring use amount information representing a use amount of the expendable, which is issued from a device using the expendable, and

said transmission section transmits the window information on the basis of the use amount information acquired by said use amount acquisition section.

27. An information processing method by an information processing apparatus for executing processing related to an expendable used in an image forming apparatus, comprising:

the window information generation step of generating window information for designating a time of delivery of a new expendable and collection of a remaining component of a used expendable; and

the transmission step of transmitting the window information generated in the window information generation step to the image forming apparatus.

28. A program code to be executed by a computer,

comprising:

a program code for generating window information for designating a time of delivery of a new expendable to be used by an image forming apparatus and collection of a remaining component of a used expendable; and

a program code for transmitting the window information generated by a window information generation section to the image forming apparatus.

29. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a computer program to be executed by a computer, said program code comprising:

a program code for generating window information for designating a time of delivery of a new expendable to be used by an image forming apparatus and collection of a remaining component of a used expendable; and

a program code for transmitting the window information generated by window information generation section to the image forming apparatus.

30. An information processing apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving malfunction information of an image forming apparatus; and

transmission means for transmitting the received malfunction information to a computer provided in a service division for coping with a malfunction of the image forming apparatus.

31. The apparatus according to claim 30, further

comprising window information generation means for generating window information for inputting and transmitting the malfunction information of the image forming apparatus.

32. An information processing method comprising:

the reception step of receiving malfunction information of an image forming apparatus; and

the transmission step of transmitting the received malfunction information to a computer provided in a service division for coping with a malfunction of the image forming apparatus.

33. A program code to be executed by a computer, comprising:

a program code for receiving malfunction information of an image forming apparatus; and

a program code for transmitting the received malfunction information to a computer provided in a service division for coping with a malfunction of the image forming apparatus.

34. A computer-readable storage medium which stores a computer program to be executed by a computer, said program code comprising:

a program code for receiving malfunction information of an image forming apparatus; and

a program code for transmitting the received malfunction information to a computer provided in a service

division for coping with a malfunction of the image forming apparatus.